



# ANNUALS

## OR FLOWERS WHICH CAN BE GROWN FROM SEED IN ONE YEAR

A Lecture, with additions, delivered before  
The Royal Horticultural Society of England,  
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By

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## PREFACE

Having been asked by many of those who heard my Lecture given before the Royal Horticultural Society on the 10th of February, 1931, and by others who heard of it, for a copy of the paper, I have decided to issue this little book on "Annuals."

The greater part of it is the actual Lecture as delivered, but I have added a few more subjects with which there was not time to deal in an hour's Lecture.

I trust it may add to the interest of many readers in their gardens and to the pleasure of planning them, and so in future years tend to increase the beauty of our gardens and the countryside generally.

LEONARD SUTTON.

READING, 1931.



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## CHAPTER I

*The use of Annuals for beds and borders,  
and for spring flowering under glass.*

Annuals, of course, are literally plants which flower and produce seed within a year, and die after the first and only crop of seed has been ripened.

Many perennial plants can be treated as annuals, however, and many annual plants can be grown on for several years by preventing the production of seed.

In this little book, as I said in my lecture, I shall only deal with plants which can be, and are, flowered from seed within a year.

By hardy annuals I shall mean flowers which can be sown in the open ground to bloom the same summer, and not that they will all certainly stand the winter if sown in the autumn.

By half-hardy annuals I shall mean those that generally need to be sown in heat and transplanted after the frosts are over if they are to produce satisfactory results in the gardens of this country.

A perennial border undoubtedly has a great charm and is a great source of pleasure. Much has been said and written about perennial borders in recent years, on account of the many beautiful new varieties of our old-world garden perennials



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which have been raised by the hybridiser. A perennial border, however, is by no means perennial in beauty. It is at its best at the latter end of the spring and in early summer, but after that, at least in the south of England, it is often a rather dull and untidy affair, and has the air of longing for the winter, when it may be tidied up and prepared for its next season's display.

An annual border begins to be bright and attractive just as the perennial border is commencing to pass the height of its beauty, and has the advantage of being at its best during July and August, when we are hoping not only for really warm summer weather but for more leisure from our business or social duties, and can give garden parties and invite our friends to enjoy our gardens with us.

The annual border should by no means replace the perennial border, but I maintain that no garden is complete without both, and to get the best results from any single flower border, space must be left for many annuals to carry on the charm and interest throughout the summer months.

There is a fascination, too, in growing plants from seed : they are your own children, instead of somebody else's children. You have not bought, borrowed or stolen them, as may be the case with cuttings of perennials. I know a lady in East Africa who has a garden where every plant, flower, shrub and tree, the latter some

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thirty feet high, has been grown by herself from seed. She has had remarkable success, and her garden is one of extraordinary interest.

Further, in growing annuals, there is always the charm of uncertainty. There may be something new—a 'sport' that has never occurred with anyone else. There may be a slight variation of the colour or form of the flower, or habit of the plant, which by careful selection you may be able to develop into a new variety that is not to be found in any other garden; possibly such a good novelty that you might offer it to your seedsman and get a price that will help to pay your seed bill. Then there is such an endless number of annuals, that it would take years before you could say you had grown and tried them all. Every annual is a new individual, and the more plants there are grown from seed the greater will be the progress in horticulture.

With regard to the cultivation of annuals, the chief needs are an open sunny position, a good soil, well-prepared and well-drained, and plenty of room for each plant to develop. The seed-bed should be made ready some time in advance of sowing, so as to allow the land to settle. It is fatal to sow small seeds on a hollow seed-bed. When sowing, the ground should be moist, but on no account sticky. The thinning of the seedlings should be done gradually, but it must be thorough, for annuals, as a rule, are of a much more branching habit than is generally supposed.

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When sown in frames and pricked out from boxes, a good ball of soil must be attached to each plant when it is put out.

In planning an annual border, large clumps should be arranged for, rather than single plants. Then as you look at it in the distance you see bright patches of scarlet, white, blue, orange, apricot, yellow or pink, and you find such things as *Godetia*, *Candytuft*, *Petunia*, *Dimorphotheca*, *Lavatera*, and *Eschscholtzia*.

These clumps may be repeated, using different colours and varieties in each, and it adds to the interest as you walk along the border to find a fresh variety of a favourite you had noticed further back.

When the border is in the open (and this is the best position for annual borders, and best of all with a broad grass path between two borders), such tall subjects as *Sunflowers*, *Climbing Nasturtiums* on sticks or trellis, clumps of *Sweet Peas* on sticks, *Convolvuluses*, *Canary Creeper* and *Ipomœas* make a fine background; intermediate between these and the plants in the front should be put such subjects as *African Marigolds*, *Zinnias*, *Coreopsis*, *Amaranthus*, *Tall Asters*, *Stocks*, *Tall Double Godetias*, *Cornflowers*, *Annual Lupines*, *Larkspurs*, *Lavateras*, *Scabious*, *Clarkias*, *Shirley Poppies* and *Calendulas*; and in the foreground clumps of *Swan River Daisies*, *Linarias*, *Dwarf Viscarias*, *Silenes*, *Nemophilas*, *Leptosiphons*, *Phacelias*, *Eschscholtzias*,

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Anagallis, Dwarf Nasturtiums, Dwarf Godetias, Virginian Stocks, Mignonette, Dimorphothecas, Dianthus Heddewigii, and Scarlet Flax.

\* Such a border as this, leading, say, from the formal part of the garden to the orchard or shrub garden, or from the garden gate to the house, will make a most interesting and charming addition to any home.

Then again, annuals add immensely to the attractiveness of the well-kept kitchen garden. The main paths may have a border of annuals, or bright clumps of them here and there, not too near together : if in a border, allowing occasional wide gaps, so as not to hide a fine bed of Beet, Lettuce or Onion.

The outdoor sowing time for most hardy annuals is from the last week in March to the first week in May. It is only by experience of the soil and locality that the best time for any particular garden can be decided, but generally speaking the latter half of April will be found to give the most satisfactory results. May is certainly best for such sorts as Nasturtiums, French and African Marigolds and Dimorphothecas.

Certain hardy annuals may be sown in the autumn and, as a rule, early September is the best time, but much of course depends on the season and the district. The aim should be to avoid getting the seedlings too large, as small seedlings will often come through a rigorous winter unharmed, while older and stronger plants may

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perish. It must be understood, however, that there is always more risk with autumn sowings than with those made in the spring, not only from frosts, but also from slugs and other vermin in late mild autumns. Partial thinning should be done before winter, but the final spacing should be left till February or March.

Half-hardy annuals are sown in boxes or pans placed in frames or a cool greenhouse, in February or March, and pricked off into boxes as soon as large enough to handle, from which they are planted out in April or May when conditions are suitable.

So far I have been dealing chiefly with annuals in the open, but I want to lay much stress on the usefulness of annuals for growing under glass. They form a most attractive addition to our greenhouse plants and provide a gorgeous display in April or May.

Such subjects as *Phlox Drummondii*, *Nemesia*, *Salpiglossis*, *Alonsoa*, *Godetia*, *Clarkia*, Annual *Chrysanthemum*, Swan River Daisy, and *Viscaria*, as well as *Dimorphotheca*, *Ursinia*, and *Helio-phila*, give very pleasing results, and enable us to anticipate the beauty of the summer border. The flowers, thus protected from rain-storms and scorching sun, develop to a perfection seldom seen outdoors.

No doubt annuals under glass do entail some trouble, but the growing of the plants all through the winter provides much interest, and they well

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repay the pains expended on them when April and May come in.

The essentials of success are plenty of air and cool treatment. Too much heat, or coddling, produces weak, lanky plants, from which a mass of flowers such as one wants can never be obtained.

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## CHAPTER II

*Species and varieties of Annuals, with special reference to some of the improved types and colours of recent introduction.*

To deal with all the annual flowers that can be grown in our British gardens would require a much bigger book than this. There are many hundreds of them offered in various seed catalogues, and I can only describe a comparative few, but these few should find a place in all gardens.

In particular, I want to call the attention of readers to some of the newer and lesser-known varieties and colours that have been evolved in species which have been familiar for many years.

I do not propose to classify the subjects, either in colour, height, or time of flowering, though the list in Chapter Four will be helpful in this connection.

I shall deal with them in no particular order, and first of all will speak of the Nasturtium, perhaps the commonest of all our hardy annuals.

### ¶ NASTURTIIUM.

The Nasturtium is worth much more attention than it receives in our gardens. For a large bed or bank on a poor soil nothing is more brilliant than mixed Nasturtiums, and it is a pleasure to walk round it and see the immense number of colourings and varieties that are produced.

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There are two main classes of Nasturtiums, the Tall and the Dwarf. For bedding purposes the Dwarf, or Tom Thumb, varieties are undoubtedly the best; they commence flowering earlier and the leaves are smaller. In very dry seasons the Tall sorts have a tendency *not to run* on a poor soil, and if a trellis is to be covered quickly the plants should be encouraged by watering in the early stages of growth; in wet seasons the Dwarfs have a tendency *to run* and to produce more leaves than flowers, and they should therefore be sown on as poor a soil as possible. Nasturtiums will really grow on soils incapable of supporting any other plants, and are most useful on dry, sandy, or gravelly banks, such as are found in many parts of the southern and eastern counties.

There is another race of Nasturtiums known as "Liliput." The flowers are rather small, but are thrown well above the foliage, and the colours, which include some very beautiful shades and markings, are even more varied than some others in the Tom Thumb class. They make very pretty and interesting ribbon borders.

The Nasturtium is one of the best subjects for table decoration, especially in dwarf vases, and the supply is almost inexhaustible. The individual flowers seem to get better and better as the months go on, and last out till the first October frost.

There are the older varieties of Nasturtium



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which we have known from our childhood, such as King Theodore, a very dark crimson ; King of Tom Thumbs, with brilliant scarlet flowers, on dark foliage ; Empress of India, with crimson flowers on even darker foliage ; Pearl, a creamy white ; and Ladybird, with golden-yellow flowers blotched with dazzling scarlet. This latter is one of the best of the older varieties, though all are good and make glorious masses of vivid colour or charming vase flowers.

During the last ten to twenty years, however, new colours, including some beautiful delicate shades, have been produced, such as Salmon Pink, Rose Beauty, Scarlet Queen, Aurora, Chameleon and Sunset. The last-named has the merit of compactness of habit and freedom of flowering, and possesses a wonderful colour which glows in the late afternoon light—bright orange with pink in it. Scarlet Queen is one of the brightest of reds and has very large flowers ; it is splendid for cutting. Aurora and Chameleon produce some rare combinations of colours which are very charming. If these are grown in the garden, some such remark as this is sure to be made by visitors : “ What lovely flowers : I did not know there were such colours in Nasturtiums.”

### ¶ NEMESIA.

From the old hardy annual, the Nasturtium, I will turn to a newer species, the Nemesia, new to many still, though it has been with us for more

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than forty years. It was first exhibited in 1891, when it received an Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society at the Temple Show. This is a half-hardy annual, and should be sown in boxes and transplanted. It may be flowered at almost any time of year.

There are two classes, the Large-flowered and the Hybrid. Originally, the large-flowered had the disadvantage of a straggling habit, and the hybrid was welcomed for its compactness. But now, by persistent selection, the straggling habit of the large-flowered in well-selected strains has been quite eliminated, and in certain colours, Orange Prince for instance, the plants are no taller than, and almost as compact as, the hybrid strain.

The original colour of the *Nemesia* as it first appeared in this country from South Africa was a rich orange, and this is still seen more than any other, but by continued selection and crossing innumerable other colours have been developed, and a large bed of *Nemesias* makes as brilliant a display as one of *Nasturtiums*, the variations in shade being quite as diverse. Some of the best colours are Cherry-red, Rose-pink, Pale Yellow and Scarlet, as well as White, all of which come true from seed.

There are shades of colour in *Nemesias* which one cannot, I think, obtain in any other annual. For instance, there is one introduction known as Bronze-pink Shades, a delightful combination of

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bronze-pink tones, terra-cotta, reds and pinks, and a large bed of these is very effective, especially in the glow of the evening sun.

Blue has been developed in both classes. The best-known is Blue Gem in the hybrid type. The Large-flowered Blue has larger flowers, but they are seldom as large as those of the other colours. Persistent efforts are being made, and will no doubt soon be successful, to increase the size of the flower to that of the Yellow or White, which are the largest of the type, and when we have this we shall have one of the most beautiful blue annuals in existence.

Two of the most unique and much admired varieties in the hybrid class are Aurora and Twilight. The former is a deep crimson and white and the latter deep blue and white. Both come perfectly true from seed. These two, like other *Nemesias*, make very pretty pot plants in the house; they develop their colours well indoors, and have a long flowering period. They should first be planted singly in 60-pots, and finally in the 48-size.

*Nemesias* make a splendid show in a mixture, either the Large-flowered or the Hybrid, and the blue should always be included. A bed of *Nemesias* at the Royal Agricultural Show in 1926 was compared by Her Majesty The Queen to a Persian carpet in colouring.

The question now arises, when should they be sown and flowered, and what special cultivation do they need to ensure success?

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They may be flowered almost the year through, out of doors from May till September, and indoors from October to March. I have seen some of the finest flowers at Christmas, from plants grown on from early August sowings and flowered in a greenhouse with little heat.

Nemesias are very useful to follow Wallflowers, to fill the beds for a month before Antirrhinums, Begonias or Verbenas are ready, or to flower in the open from July to September, which is the most usual time to see them.

For winter flowering they should be sown in July or August ; for early spring flowering from mid-September to mid-October ; for early summer flowering in February ; and for July to September flowering at the end of March or early in April. During the winter the plants for early spring flowering require no more heat than is necessary to keep out the frost. Providing this is done, too low a temperature cannot be kept, because if coddled at this stage the plants are useless when spring arrives.

The essential needs for successful results with Nemesias are a cool soil and plenty of moisture. Once let the plants get dry and they come into flower too soon, get leggy, and run to seed. It is also most important that they should suffer no check before being put into their flowering positions. The time of sowing should be so arranged that the plants are ready for putting out just when they are wanted. If they have

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to be kept waiting in the boxes after they are fully grown, they will very quickly become starved and suffer a check from which, in all probability, they will not recover. If the plants get a good root-hold, they will continue in bloom for a long period, and if kept well watered and not allowed to seed, will carry an abundance of flower till the end of September.

Nemesias are most often seen at their best in the North. In parts of Yorkshire and Scotland they are almost as common as Nasturtiums. But flowers quite as fine can be grown in the South. One of the finest borders I have seen in a private garden was in the South, at Littlecote, near Hungerford, in Wiltshire, the seat of Sir E. S. Wills, Bart. His gardener, Mr. Smith, is very successful with Nemesias and grows great bushy plants covered with flowers.

As cut flowers Nemesias are most charming, either in a large vase or as a dinner-table decoration.

### ¶ MARIGOLD.

I will now deal with another annual, perhaps not as attractive in the minds of most people as the two already discussed, but one which should be used much more than it is. I refer to the Marigold.

There are several flowers which have this name attached to them. There is the Pot Marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), the Cape Marigold (*Calen-*

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*dula pluvialis*), the Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), the African (*Tagetes erecta*) and the French (*Tagetes patula*). It is the latter two with which I am first going to deal.

Both the African and French Marigolds are really charming flowers if suitably used, either for the border or for large vases in the house.

The African varieties have large self-coloured flowers of deep orange, yellow or pale lemon. A border of these against a dark hedge, with the tall varieties in the background, the dwarfer type below, and *Tagetes signata pumila* as an edging, makes a very pleasing feature and one that carries on to the very end of the summer till killed by frost. Birds are very fond of Marigolds, but a few strands of black cotton wound amongst the flowers is a sure protection.

Of the two yellow varieties, the pale lemon should be chosen. It has a very unusual charm, in the evening light especially ; one cannot call such a colour glowing, but it certainly has a sort of luminous sheen, differing from that of any other yellow flower.

The Single African Marigold is too little known. It is a strain not easy to keep good and true, but it does produce very beautiful flowers, and is certainly worth all the trouble and attention that has been spent on its selection.

Last year saw quite a new break in African Marigolds, offered under the name of Guinea Gold. It is not exactly a semi-double, but has

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loose flowers produced in great abundance. It comes very true to type, and as a cut flower it has great charm.

The rich colourings and markings of the French Marigolds have a beauty we cannot get in any other flower. It is difficult to say whether the double or the single forms are the more beautiful, but certainly among the very best are the dwarf Legion of Honour and Diadem in the singles, and Queen of Dwarfs in the doubles.

With the African and French Marigolds should be included *Tagetes signata pumila*. Its mass of small stellate flowers makes a fine edging to Marigolds, or grown alone as a path-edging to a shrubbery it rivals the St. John's Wort. To anyone who wants a novel and attractive feature in the garden, I strongly recommend a short border, or a long one, of these Tall and Dwarf Marigolds, with *T. signata pumila* as an edging.

¶ POT MARIGOLD (*Calendula officinalis*).

To the market grower we owe much of the popularity of certain annuals, and the Orange *Calendula officinalis*, or Pot Marigold, is a case in point. For some years past this flower has been grown in enormous quantities all over the country, and especially under glass during the winter months.

Among annuals the Pot Marigold is always a favourite, and the cut-flower trade has resulted in a greatly extended cultivation of this plant in the garden.

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In addition to the new semi-quilled form of the double orange Radio, some very beautiful fresh colourings have been developed in the single *C. officinalis*, including delicate shades of cream, primrose, buff, and apricot, sometimes as selfs, and sometimes with two or three of these shades exquisitely blended in the same flower.

Orange King, Radio, Meteor, and Lemon Queen are the best double varieties.

### ¶ PHLOX DRUMMONDII.

In recent years *Phlox Drummondii* has been eclipsed somewhat by the *Antirrhinum*, but there are signs that it is again coming into its own. There are many delicate as well as brilliant colours in the separate varieties of *P. Drummondii*. Most beautiful beds may be made with three or four harmonising colours, in group planting or mixed together. One such combination well worth trying is the soft buff shade of Yellow with Salmon-rose and Vivid Scarlet, to which may be added the Deep Violet if a further contrasting colour is required. This is only one of the many combinations that may be made with the numerous varieties of this flower. The Violet mixed with the White, or the Violet mixed with the Yellow, will make a charming bed. Phlox in separate colours, or in mixtures of distinct colours, should be used very largely in an annual border.

In the annual Phlox there are three classes, the tall Large-flowered, the Intermediate and the



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Dwarf. For big beds and borders the tall sorts are invaluable, as well as for a background in a mixed border. The dwarf varieties are excellent, too, and there are some charming colours, such as Salmon-rose, Dazzling Scarlet, Pale Pink and Apricot. They grow only four to six inches in height, and therefore as dot plants on a rockery they are very useful for providing bright colours in the late summer and autumn.

But it is the Intermediate class that perhaps mostly attracts me. The varieties appear under many names. Some of them are known as *Heynholdii*, *Cecily* and *Hortensia* *Phloxes*. I remember them forty years ago in Germany, though they were not very true then. I will refer to them as the "Beauty" class and specially recommend to you Pink Beauty, Scarlet Beauty and Mauve Beauty. The flowers are as large as those of the tall *grandiflora* varieties and are produced in great abundance : used as a bed by themselves they make a brilliant show.

It is not generally known that the *Phlox Drummondii* is one of the hardiest of our annuals and withstands a lot of frost. One friend of mine told me that he gathered a beautiful bunch from his garden in December ; and in going up and down by train between Reading and Paddington last year I watched a bed of Pink Beauty making quite a bright show into November. Following a sharp frost or two, a few sunny days in early winter, such as often come, will bring

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out the flowers once more and they will be found charming for cutting at such a season.

It is wonderful how long some of these annuals will go on flowering if the seed pods are picked off. Unfortunately, they generally suffer by being cleared away too soon, to make room for Wallflowers, Pansies and other spring-flowering plants, but if a sheltered corner can be found where they can be left, many of these annuals will give flowers for cutting right up to November.

Like the *Nemesia*, the annual *Phlox* strongly objects to any check in its early stages, and it is most important to keep it in a growing state until planted out. To ensure strong well-rooted plants that are to flower till the autumn, as they should do, they must not on any account become starved in the seed-bed or boxes. The annual *Phlox* prefers a moist soil. I heard of one bed in a Dorsetshire Churchyard which was planted year after year with mixed *Phlox Drummondii*, and it proved such a fine sight that people from the neighbourhood used to pay special visits to see it. The district was a moist one and the site was partially shaded.

### ¶ VISCARIA.

I shall now mention another hardy annual, very easy to grow, but not grown nearly enough. I mean the *Viscaria*. It is one of our brightest annuals and produces masses of flowers, greatly adding to the brilliancy of an annual border.

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There are many colours and they look well all mixed together. I remember one summer seeing a broad ribbon border of Viscarias round a big bed of Azaleas in Mr. Mark Fenwick's garden, or rather in his grounds. I did not see the Azaleas in bloom, but this bed must have made a great show with them in the spring. I did, however, see it in August, when the Azaleas, of course, would be of no attraction, but the Viscarias were making quite a bright display, and anyone visiting the garden would want to walk across to see what it was.

Though Viscarias are fine in mixture, they are also very beautiful in their different colours, and a bed or clump in the border, the red with the white, or the blue with the white, especially the latter, is most striking and charming.

### ¶ LINARIA.

Another hardy annual which always evokes admiration and enquiry in the border is the Linaria. There are a number of good colours, yellow, mauve, pink, and crimson and gold, but with the exception of the latter, which is perhaps the most distinct, they are best in mixture, and all annual borders should have several large clumps. Linarias have the great advantage that, if cut back as soon as they are getting past their best, they will quickly flower again as freely as ever, and this may be done a second time, thus giving three crops of flowers in the summer.

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### ¶ GODETIA.

Godetias have been enormously improved since the introduction of the original tall *Schamirii* type. Varieties of this class may now be had with flowers in long loose sprays, ranging from the palest shell-pink to rich cherry-red and crimson. At one time Godetias, like many other annuals, were chiefly used to fill up vacant patches in the flower borders, and often the method was to sow thickly and mark the spot with the folded seed packet in a cleft stick, leaving the seedlings to fight their own struggle for existence. The improved varieties of Godetia are worthy of better treatment, as they respond generously to it. Spring-sown seedlings, given sufficient room, will grow three feet high in the garden, and specimens from five to six feet in height, and broad in proportion, may be grown from seed sown in pots in August or September, potted on as required, and flowered in eleven-inch or even fourteen-inch pots. Such plants can be bedded out, or the pots plunged into the borders where wanted. The pots of autumn seedlings should be housed during the winter under very cool conditions, giving an abundance of air at all times; even a little frost will not do them any damage. Disappointments with plants in the spring are nearly always due to too much heat during the winter. The fine plants which attracted so much attention in the beds in Hyde Park last season were raised from similar autumn

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sowings, and were quite a surprise to those who had not before seen autumn-sown plants of *Godetia*.

*Clarkias* have for some time past been grown and used in this way, but *Godetias*, such as Shell Pink, Cherry Red, etc., make really fine specimen plants. I think the *Godetia* surpasses the *Clarkia* for this purpose, and the shades of colour are most charming.

There are two types in *Godetias* :—(1) The *Schaminii*, with flowers produced in long loose sprays, of which Rosy Morn is typical; (2) The *Whitneyi*, with flowers produced in clusters, such as the well-known Lady Albemarle.

Though each can be used with good effect, both indoors and sown in the open as hardy annuals, it is the No. 1 class which is the most largely used for outdoor sowings. This class has the advantage of producing an abundance of long-stemmed sprays of beautifully formed loose double flowers for cutting, and there are a number of charming colours, including Shell Pink, Cherry Red, Rosy Morn, Rich Pink, Mauve and Crimson, as well as White. It was these varieties which made such a wonderful show in the exhibit of autumn-sown *Godetias* at the R.H.S. in January, 1930. They can also be used with telling effect in long borders with such *Whitneyi* varieties as Scarlet Queen, Charming, Afterglow and Dwarf Pink for the front rows. All may be sown in the open ground in April, and they

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require very little attention beyond thinning in the usual way.

The Azalea-flowered Godetia, recently introduced, is really a double-flowered *Whitneyi*, and has been produced by crossing the double form of *Schaminii* with the best colours in the *Whitneyi*. Separate colours can now be had true from seed, a fine glowing pink, a shell-pink and a beautiful pale mauve. In a favourable season, and when well grown, these plants look exactly like small Azalea bushes covered with bloom.

### ¶ ALONSOA.

Another half-hardy annual which deserves much more attention than it gets is the Alonsoa. There are several varieties, and the bright scarlet *Warscewiczii* or the delicate pink flowers of *Mutisi* are very attractive. Alonsoa makes a very pretty bed by itself, as well as a bright and interesting spot in the border, and it is also a particularly nice annual in pots for the greenhouse. Like the *Linaria*, if after the first flowers are faded the plants are cut back, a second and equally bright crop of flowers will appear in a short time. *Alonsoa gracilis* is particularly suited for indoor cultivation.

### ¶ NIGELLA.

The *Nigella* (Love-in-a-Mist) is known to almost everyone. The best blue strain is the Miss Jekyll, and a lovely flower it is, but the white form, which is less known, should be grown too.

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It is charming as a cut flower, with its black stamens, and in a village flower show where I saw it used in a table-decoration competition, it caused many remarks and enquiries. The species *Hispanica* is also worth growing, both the variety known as *atropurpurea* and the white form. These are not so attractive as the preceding, but are quite distinct and are valuable on account of their quaint appearance. *Nigella* is one of the best annuals for autumn sowing, as it is very hardy. The plants grow to a great size when autumn sown, and the flowers with their long stalks are very useful for cutting.

### ¶ LEPTOSIPHON.

A very pretty little hardy annual, not nearly so well known as it should be, is the *Leptosiphon*. It grows only three or four inches high, and the bright star-like flowers, which are thickly studded all over the compact plants, vary in an immense number of shades, from pink to deep crimson and orange. The pink and yellow each come true from seed, but undoubtedly it is in the mixture of colours that the *Leptosiphon* is most attractive. It is very pretty as a clump in a border, or used as an edging to beds in the same way as *Lobelia*, the plants being no higher than the most compact *Lobelias*. It blends well with the dwarf white *Alyssum minimum*.

### ¶ ALYSSUM.

There are two chief classes of annual *Alyssum*.

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The Sweet Alyssum, growing nine to twelve inches high, has been common for a great many years, and much appreciated on account of its quick growth and floriferous habit. The White variety is the one more often seen, but the Lilac Queen is a pretty shade of pinkish-lilac and should be better known. Now there is a creamy-yellow which has sported from the lilac and makes a pretty combination with that shade.

Of recent years the *Alyssum minimum* (*Kæniga maritima*) has become very popular. It is largely used as an edging to beds and borders, and as such enormously enhances the attractiveness of Antirrhinums and *Phlox Drummondii*. The plants grow only two to three inches high, but spread to a foot in width, and when employed as a broad white band on either side of a grass path the effect is very beautiful. Little Dorrit, with its erect habit, is preferred by some people, but to my mind it has little of the charm of the original *A. minimum*.

### ¶ LOBELIA.

The Lobelia, though not strictly an annual, is usually so grown, and it is principally the compact varieties which are used to form the familiar edging to beds and borders. But Lobelia is worthy of more attention for individual beds, as well as for clumps in the border. A small bed here and there in the garden of the Cambridge Blue variety is very attractive. So also is a bed



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of the mixed dwarf sorts, which include deep crimson, white and lavender, as well as light blue and dark blue, and anyone who wants a new feature in the garden should certainly try a bed of these.

Tall Lobelias, too, are a pleasing feature in an annual border. They have large flowers of blue, rose-pink and white. *Lobelia ramosa* also makes an excellent bed out of doors, a fact which is not usually known; this Lobelia should be planted closely.

### ¶ PETUNIA.

This is one of our most valuable half-hardy annuals. The Large-flowered varieties have flowers of marvellous beauty, including deep violet, crimson selfs, and the same blotched with white, as well as the yellow-throated and fringed flowers, although they are rarely seen at their best in the open.

The smaller-flowered Bedding varieties are, however, suited in every way for beds and borders. These used to be represented only by such old varieties as Countess of Ellesmere, etc., but now we have the Crimson Bedding and the Blue Bedding, growing about eighteen inches high, the plants being covered in bloom and producing very striking effects in large beds by themselves, or in shrubbery borders. The Blue Bedding made a very attractive feature last summer on the Terrace at Richmond.

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The compact varieties, growing not more than eight or nine inches high, are equally floriferous, and are invaluable for ribbon borders and small beds, or as clumps in the annual border. The two pink varieties, Rosy Morn and Brilliant Rose, and the two bluish shades, Mauve and Violet, each come perfectly true from seed and are very brilliant and charming colours.

### ¶ SALPIGLOSSIS.

Another of our best half-hardy annuals is the *Salpiglossis*.

Having seen it so prominently exhibited as a pot plant at the Chelsea and other Shows throughout the country, there is a tendency to think of it only as a greenhouse annual, but if suitable sheltered situations are chosen it is one of our finest annuals for beds or borders.

A bed of mixed colours is very striking, but I would urge planning the shades, say, in one case, the Golden-throated White mixed with Chamois-rose, Velvet Red, and Golden-yellow, or, in another case, the Dark blue and gold, Light blue and gold, Violet-blue, Golden-yellow and Golden-throated White.

The individual flowers of each of the colours are of great charm and are very beautiful on a dinner table under artificial light.

For outdoor purposes, seed should be sown early in March, and the seedlings pricked off into boxes as soon as they are large enough to handle,

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the boxes being kept close to the glass in a cool frame. The seedlings should then be potted into 60-size pots and placed in a warm house, shading them from sunshine, which will give them a start. When established, they should be gradually hardened off for planting out in June, and if strong, well-rooted plants are obtained they should make a brilliant show throughout July and August. It is a good plan to pot on a few plants into 32-size pots, ready to put out should any breaks occur through accident.

### ¶ NICOTIANA (TOBACCO, FLOWERING).

*Nicotiana affinis* is another invaluable half-hardy annual, and does well out of doors if planted in the shelter of a wall or hedge. *Nicotianas* flower freely for a very long period, and the scent in the evenings is as pleasing as that of the Night-scented Stock. Though the White is still probably the most popular, the Crimson, Scarlet, and Pink greatly add to the beauty of the species, and a few clumps of mixed colours should always be included in a large annual border. The Miniature White Tobacco (*N. suaveolens*) is a very attractive annual, and does well out of doors or in the greenhouse.

### ¶ HOLLYHOCK AND SWEET WILLIAM.

Two of our best garden flowers which we have always thought of only as perennials, or biennials, are the Hollyhock and Sweet William, which have now each produced an annual variety.

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The Annual Hollyhock does not, of course, produce noble plants ten feet in height as does the perennial, but gives very pretty useful plants of four to five feet, blooming profusely. It will soon be an attractive feature of the annual border, and the flowers, freely borne on the branches, are very useful for cutting for large vases.

The Annual Sweet William, though only as yet obtainable in mixture, produces flowers as good as the spring-flowering biennial.

### ¶ CHRYSANTHEMUM.

The genus *Chrysanthemum*, which provides us with the wonderful greenhouse flowers in the autumn, also gives us some of our best hardy annual flowers, and our summer borders would be much the poorer without the many varieties of the Annual *Chrysanthemum*. Daisy- or Marguerite-like flowers have a special attraction, and the *Chrysanthemum* gives us these both in the perennial and annual species, the former with the *Leucanthemum* or Ox-eye Daisy, which includes the well-known Shasta type, and the latter with the *Segetums*, *Coronariums* and *Carinatum*s. The flowers of these are in some cases very similar in form, but the foliage is quite distinct and constant in each species.

The *Segetums* are all developed from the common weed, the Corn Marigold, and a beautiful weed it is. These have glaucous green foliage. It is to this species that the lovely Star varieties

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owe their origin. The first, Morning Star, with its very large primrose-yellow self flowers, was raised after long and painstaking selection by Mr. Orchard in the Isle of Wight some thirty-four years ago. It was followed by the Eastern Star, with a deep chocolate centre, and then by Evening Star, a deep golden-yellow. Then came Northern Star, with ivory-white petals and a deep sulphur-yellow zone. All these Star varieties should have a place in the annual border.

The *Coronarium* varieties have finely cut foliage, and most of them produce double flowers in various forms of white and yellow, but the most beautiful variety is probably the Single Coronet. The petals of the latter are a pale cream colour, each petal being tipped with yellow, making a band of yellow round the edges of the flowers. Coronet took many years of careful selection to bring to perfection. It occurred as a 'sport,' when a dwarf double yellow variety, largely grown from divisions for market work, was with some difficulty seeded and tested for 'sports.' Coronet was seen a great deal in gardens during last season, owing to its re-introduction as a novelty, but it is at least twenty years old and has been in commerce for the last twelve years or so.

The most brilliant in colouring of the Annual Chrysanthemums is undoubtedly the *Carinatum* class. The flowers are wonderfully marked and gorgeous in colouring. *Burridgeanum* and *atro-*

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*coccineum* are the chief varieties. There are doubles and semi-doubles, but perhaps the Eclipse strain, which are all single, is the brightest and most striking.

### ¶ DIMORPHOTHECA.

This is one of the best annuals of recent introduction. Dimorphothecas are sun-loving plants, and mostly come from South Africa. The first annual species to be largely grown in our gardens was the brilliant *D. aurantiaca*, a plant rivalling the Gazania in its splendour, but which grows like a weed in any ordinary garden soil from a sowing made in May. It will bloom in six to seven weeks from the date of sowing, and continues to do so till frozen in the autumn. The hybrids of this species were obtained by crossing *D. aurantiaca* with the old white Cape Marigold (*Calendula pluvialis*). The result was a wonderful range of charming shades of primrose, lemon, buff, apricot and salmon, as well as delicately tinted white flowers. Some of these varieties have been fixed, a pure apricot—that very rare colour in flowers—among them. If there be a dry sunny spot in the garden difficult to fill, Dimorphothecas should be tried; they, too, are among the many annuals which do themselves credit in the greenhouse and surprise the gardener by their beauty.

Nearly allied to the Dimorphotheca is that charming flower introduced a few years back,

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*Calendula pluvialis ringens*, with white petals and a rich dark blue centre. It is as free flowering as any of the *Dimorphothecas* and as hardy.

### ¶ COSMEA.

The white, pink and crimson flowers of *Cosmos* (*Cosmea bipinnata*) are more frequently seen in gardens nowadays, owing to the introduction of the early-flowering strains. Formerly, it was quite exceptional for these plants to flower in this country, and they would only do so in the longest and hottest of summers. One disadvantage of the early-flowering strain, however, is its lack of the fine feathery foliage which the old strain used to produce in such abundance, and which was so useful for arranging with cut flowers in bowls and vases in the house. Where room permits, it would be well worth while to grow a few plants of the old stock of the *Cosmos* for the sake of its foliage. Whilst on the subject of *Cosmeas*, we must not forget the newer double varieties, which show a strange variation in shape, ranging from the double *Pyrethrum* type to the broad guard-petalled form of the *Anemone* flower. Pure single flowers as well as fully double ones are found on the same plant, and the fact always arouses curiosity as to why it should be so. The best results are generally obtained by sowing seed in pots during February, the plants being put out immediately the first flowers appear in May or June.

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### ¶ ESCHSCHOLTZIA.

Eschscholtzias (Poppies of California) rank high among the most useful of our hardy garden flowers. In countries where they are not subject to frost they are truly perennials, but as it is usual to treat them as annuals in this country I shall deal with them as such.

The older varieties—*californica*, a pale yellow; Mandarin, deep orange and crimson; and Rose Cardinal, carmine and pink—were very attractive, but the hybridiser has in recent years produced many newer shades, remarkable as well as beautiful. Among the best of these are Cherry Red, Flame, Gaiety and Geisha, the latter with charming fluted petals. Dazzler is the deepest red so far produced in the Eschscholtzia, and received an Award of Merit from the R.H.S., but it is not very floriferous. There is also Toreador, a double golden-bronze, in which the reverse of the petals is a rich orange-crimson, making a very beautiful effect, especially in the sunshine. Carmine Queen is the best of the doubles, a very pleasing flower of crimson-carmine colour. All these are well worth growing, and will give great pleasure in the garden.

Eschscholtzias should be sown in the spring in the open ground and they produce a mass of flowers during the summer months. They cannot be relied upon always to stand the winter in England, but it is well worth while to sow in early September in favourable positions, as well



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as in the spring, as the flowers from autumn sowings are much larger than those from spring sowings, and the plants, being stronger-rooted, continue flowering for a long period.

### ¶ LARKSPUR.

The Larkspur, or Annual Delphinium, is one of the hardiest of our hardy annuals. The tall branching Stock-flowered class, which attains a height of three feet, is undoubtedly the favourite. Probably the introduction of the very brilliantly coloured Rosy Scarlet variety has largely increased the cultivation of the whole of this species, which also includes two very pretty pale shades, Mauve and Shell Pink, as well as rich purplish-blues. The cut sprays of flowers make a delightful decoration for the house. At the other end of the scale as regards height are the Dwarf Rocket varieties, growing only one foot, and producing tapering cylindrical spikes in numerous shades of colour; these make charming clumps in the foreground of an annual border. Intermediate in height and habit between the foregoing classes is the Emperor Larkspur, attaining a height of two feet, although in the latter the colouring is not quite so rich as in the others.

When sufficient space is available, autumn sowing should be adopted for the Stock-flowered Larkspurs, remembering that such plants get a strong roothold and grow very freely before flowering in the following summer, and therefore

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from one to two feet of extra height should be allowed for when choosing the positions.

It seems impossible under this heading to omit a reference to the perennial Larkspur, most commonly known as the Delphinium. Magnificent spikes of bloom can be obtained from plants raised from seed sown in the spring and flowered in the following season. Seedlings possess unusual vigour, and their tall spikes are as fine as those of named varieties which are so much admired at our spring shows.

### ¶ ZINNIA.

Zinnias are now perhaps the most gorgeous of all our annual flowers. Until a few years ago there were practically only two varieties worth growing, the scarlet and the yellow—both very pure and brilliant colours—the white and purple never being much in favour. These older varieties were, to some tastes, a little too substantial in appearance, but their perfect form atoned largely for their heaviness, as they were ideal “florists’” flowers. In the newer Giant-flowered strains a wonderful change has arisen in colour, as well as in size and form, and Zinnias now exhibit a very wide range of indescribable colouring, which for convenience is called “Art Shades,” including exquisite tones of Apricot, Salmon, Pink, Rose, Cerise and Rosy Scarlet, many of the flowers showing a deeper harmonising shade towards the centre. Lavender, Mauve, and Purple varieties

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are also beginning to appear in quite pleasing tones. The accompanying change in form has been a general loosening in the build of the flower, and the petals are not so closely packed one on the other.

Zinnias thrive best under half-hardy cultivation, although it is not advisable to sow the seed too early. In the open ground a sowing made in a sunny spot about the middle of May will generally produce a satisfactory display. When grown in a large bed, especially if the plants are given plenty of room for development, Zinnias will be a source of great pleasure during the later months of the summer.

### ¶ SWAN RIVER DAISY.

A charming little plant growing about nine inches high and covered with a mass of *Cineraria*-like flowers in shades of blue and mauve, as well as white, some with dark centres, others with white centres with a surrounding dark ring. In beds and borders this hardy annual will bloom profusely throughout the summer months. It also makes a dainty pot plant for the greenhouse in spring, remaining in flower for a long time.

### ¶ BARTONIA AUREA.

This is an annual that all should grow. The flowers, which measure from two to four inches across, have clear yellow petals and a mass of feathery stamens, and are produced on plants

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from one to one and a half feet high. *Bartonias* make an attractive spot in the border, and are also extremely pretty as cut flowers. They are very hardy, and come into bloom a few weeks after sowing.

### ¶ DIASCIA BARBERÆ.

Somewhat like the *Nemesia* in shape of flower, with beautiful pink and mother-of-pearl-coloured blooms. This is a pretty half-hardy subject for dwarf borders, and is also very charming when grown as a pot plant in the greenhouse.

### ¶ ECHIUM PLANTAGINEUM.

A recent introduction and a valuable addition to our hardy annuals. The original colour was an unusual combination of rose-red and blue—quite attractive—but selection is producing a fine pure blue, which will be a great acquisition and rival the perennial *Anchusa*. There is also a white variety which is well worth growing. Whether grown in the conservatory or in the open border, *E. plantagineum* generally attracts considerable attention.

### ¶ CORNFLOWER.

This, too, must not be forgotten. Not only have we the beautiful blue so common in the fields, but charming shades of pink or old rose, as well as white. The double varieties should also be grown, the large flowers remaining fresh for a long time when cut. They are grown on a large

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scale for market purposes. Cornflowers are among the hardiest of annuals.

¶ CLARKIA.

Of Clarkias there are two classes, as there are of Godetias. In the former these are known as the *Pulchella* and the *Elegans*.

It is the *Elegans* varieties that are now mostly grown. They are all amenable to the same treatment as Godetias and make splendid pot plants for the greenhouse, and enormous specimens six feet high have often been exhibited at the Chelsea and other Shows. One peculiarity of pot-grown double Clarkias should be noted. It is that the first flowers usually come single, but with the lengthening of the sprays fully double blooms are developed. The Salmon-scarlet, Delicate Pink and Double Salmon are the most attractive varieties and make a vivid splash of colour in the annual border, where the plants attain a height of about two feet.

The *Pulchella* varieties are dwarfer than the foregoing and do not exceed one foot in height. The colours are principally rose-pink shades, approaching magenta, and do not include the salmon and scarlet varieties which are so pleasing in the *Elegans* class. Still, this is one of the easiest annuals to grow from sowings in the open ground, and will always be popular.

¶ NEMOPHILA.

Most of us associate this pretty little blue flower

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with our childhood days and the first garden of our own. It is, perhaps, the easiest of all annuals to grow, at times flourishing even in a gravel path. The *Nemophila insignis*, with its brilliant blue cup-shaped flowers, is undoubtedly the best variety, but there are many others which are very interesting and beautiful, such as the Pale Mauve, *N. discoidalis* (deep purple, almost black, with white edging to each petal), *N. maculata* (white, with deep violet spots), and the Pure White.

When sown in the autumn and grown in pots *N. insignis* makes a charming edging to the stage, drooping down in a cascade of blue flowers and tender green foliage.

### ¶ ANNUAL POPPIES.

There are a large number of annual Poppies which add greatly to the brightness of our gardens and the countryside. They are developed from several species, but *Papaver Rhæas* and *P. somniferum* provide the commonest and best varieties.

The varieties of *P. Rhæas* have finely cut hairy foliage. Without doubt, the Shirley Poppy is the most popular introduction. It was raised by the late Rev. W. Wilks from the common field Poppy, and the colours now range from crimson and scarlet, through rose and salmon-pink, to the tinted whites. Double and semi-double flowers have also been developed, but these have not lost any of the grace of the single form, and they carry their petals longer.

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Orange King is of the Shirley type, with gorgeous orange-scarlet flowers, and its pale centre and golden anthers make it a very beautiful flower.

The Shirley strain also provides a so-called blue Poppy. The flowers are of a pale slaty-blue, darkening towards the edge of the petals. They are very attractive when cut for table decoration, with a white cloth or background, and always evoke admiration when thus used.

The Ryburgh Hybrids much resemble the Double Shirley Poppy. Both of these and Orange King have the merit of thriving when transplanted. They also make attractive plants in the greenhouse.

The Japanese Pompone and the French Ranunculus Poppy are smaller in flower than the Shirley, but both provide charming double blooms in very delicate colours and markings.

Other species somewhat resembling the *P. Rhæas* are *P. pavonium*, the Peacock Poppy, with rich scarlet flowers and broad purplish-black basal bands to the petals; *P. umbrosum*, an interesting variety with bright crimson flowers, spotted with black; the Tulip Poppy (*P. glaucum*) which also has rich scarlet flowers; and the Mexican Poppy (*Hunnemannia*), producing bright yellow flowers with golden anthers, somewhat like the perennial Iceland Poppy. The last-named is really a half-hardy perennial, but is grown in this country as an annual. All four species mentioned

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in this paragraph vary from fifteen to eighteen inches in height.

The *Somniferum* class produces great plants with pale glaucous green foliage, and mostly immense double flowers of brilliant colours, Chamois-rose, Raspberry-rose, Mauve Queen, Pink Gem and Cardinal being the best.

The single varieties of *P. somniferum* are beautiful flowers, but have the disadvantage of soon dropping their petals.

Seeds of Annual Poppies should be sown where the plants are wanted to flower, as, with the exceptions already mentioned, the seedlings do not transplant well.

Although not annuals, one cannot leave the subject of Poppies without mention of the wonderful colours of the Hybrid and Orientale Poppies, the best of which are now obtainable from seed. Mrs. Perry, a soft salmon-pink shade, is well-known. Cherry Pink is a very rare shade of cerise-rose, with petals of silk-like texture. The Claret-coloured variety is an extremely fine flower, very rich in colouring. All these Orientale Poppies, of course, should be sown in May or June for flowering in the following year.

### ¶ JACOBEEA.

Jacobeas are not seen in the garden as often as they should be, and yet when met with visitors are always interested in them. The double sorts, with their perfect little "pompon" flowers, come



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into bloom in August when the midsummer annuals are losing their freshness. The single sorts, which are taller and earlier-flowering than the doubles, exactly resemble Star Cinerarias, though their foliage is quite different. They are long-stemmed and extremely valuable for cutting, especially for the dinner-table, where under artificial light the magenta-rose and magenta-crimson shades light up most brilliantly, giving quite a different effect from that seen in daylight.

### ¶ LAVATERA (MALLOW).

There are several families called Mallows, but by far the finest type is *Lavatera*, and *Loveliness* is the best variety of that type. It is an improved and richly-coloured form of *L. rosea splendens*, with reddish stems and darker foliage. The variety *Sunset* is somewhat similar. *Lavateras* will not transplant, or at any rate the results are not worth the tedium of putting very small seedlings barely beyond the cotyledon stage into flowering positions in the open ground, which is the only way of succeeding. The best specimens are grown by sowing a few seeds, any time from March to May, in groups in the open, at distances of two feet or more apart, and thinning the young plants to one in each group. Such plants will overlap by flowering time and form a glorious pink "hedge" four feet high, if such is wished, in any part of the garden. Groups of two or three plants can be

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similarly arranged for in the flower borders, placing them where their colour and height will tell to the best advantage. The pale varieties of *Malope grandiflora* (another of the Mallows) are not so desirable, but the Red Malope is often grown for its rich wine-red flowers—a colour as yet wanting in the Lavateras.

### ¶ SCABIOUS.

The Sweet Scabious, like the *Eschscholtzia*, is almost invariably treated as an annual, though it can also claim to be perennial. It is one of our best late-summer and autumn subjects, and carries on till heavy frosts stop its growth. The flower heads, with their protruding calyx teeth and stigmas, resemble well-furnished floral pin-cushions, and are carried on long clean stems which make them excellent for cutting. Among the different coloured varieties are a very fine coral-pink and a clear pale mauve, both of which are worthy of separate culture. In gardens near the sea-coast one always notices the greatly improved colour of the Scabious flowers. Apparently, sea-air has some quality which generally brightens as well as intensifies the colouring matter in flowers, and the Scabious is particularly susceptible to it.

### ¶ SWEET SULTAN.

The new large-flowered varieties of *Centaurea imperialis*, known as Giant Sweet Sultans, are

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extremely beautiful in form and colouring, and are delightfully scented. They are, however, somewhat fickle, for while on most garden soils they will grow freely, there are districts where they refuse to thrive, and the reason for this is difficult to place. Yet the fact that these Giant Sweet Sultan flowers are sold in enormous quantities at Covent Garden and other markets should induce us to try them in our own gardens. The Delicate Mauve is the favourite colour, but there is a new variety of a deeper rosy mauve which will also become very popular. This hardy annual is one of our best subjects to furnish cut flowers for the house.

### ¶ ANNUAL CARNATION.

The Annual, or Marguerite, Carnation is another subject on the border line between annuals and perennials. These Carnations flower freely in the open ground within six months from an early sowing under glass, and may be grown on for a second year if the winter is not too severe. If good strong plants are obtained they make a brilliant mass of colour in a bed through August and September, and the flowers are very sweet-scented. But their great utility is that, towards the late autumn when frosts are beginning to spoil the beauty of the garden, the plants can be lifted and potted up for the greenhouse, where they will continue to produce sweet-scented flowers through the winter and spring. The separate

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colours, Yellow, Pink, Crimson and Pure White come true from seeds, the pale pink being especially fine, and in the cut stage it is difficult to distinguish many of the flowers from the best named perpetual Carnations. With regard to doubleness, the Marguerite Carnation has been brought to a very high stage of development, and a good strain always gives over ninety per cent. of fine double flowers, and frequently one hundred per cent. is reached.

### ¶ COREOPSIS.

The many varieties of annual Coreopsis offer the great advantage of thriving in shaded positions and in the poorest of soils. In colour they are restricted to shades of yellow and a velvety brownish-maroon or crimson, sometimes as self-coloured flowers, and sometimes as bicolors, in varying proportions. Their height varies from nine inches to three feet. *C. Drummondii* is the finest of the yellow sorts. It is of medium height, with beautiful large clear yellow flowers, slightly marked with maroon at the base of the petals. The dwarf sorts are excellent for small beds, or they can be used as edgings to the taller yellow and brown *C. tinctoria* and rich crimson *C. atrosanguinea*. This family produces an abundant supply of flowers for cutting, the pretty loose semi-double form of *C. tinctoria* being particularly useful for this purpose.

Although not an annual, I must mention *C.*

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*grandiflora* which produces very large single yellow flowers in great abundance throughout the summer. There is also a semi-double form in which the flowers are of an even richer yellow. From an early sowing the plants will bloom the same season.

### ¶ GYPSOPHILA ELEGANS.

Until comparatively a few years ago that indispensable help in arranging flower vases—the *Gypsophila elegans*—was available in white only. It can now be had in pink and a rich crimson, varieties which are yet too little known, but they make a very agreeable change as a foil to other flowers, and are well worth growing, both for the open border and for cutting for table decoration.

### ¶ ANNUAL LUPINE.

The Annual Lupines are now a numerous class and include some pretty new shades, such as the mist-blue of *Hartwegii*, Azure Blue, and the various pink sorts. The dwarf blue and white Lupine (*L. nanus*) is one of our bravest annuals in a wet dull season, conditions which it seems especially to enjoy, as it then flowers earlier and more profusely than usual. There is also the dwarf yellow variety, which is one of the sweetest-scented flowers of our gardens, and although it is somewhat shy in blooming, it should be grown for its unique perfume.

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### ¶ MIGNONETTE AND OTHER SWEET-SCENTED ANNUALS.

The old-fashioned modest Mignonette will always command a place in the annual border for the sake of its sweetness, but thanks to persistent selection it is now possible to enjoy the full scent of this old favourite, with greatly improved colour and much larger spikes. Patches of White, Red and Yellow Mignonette stand out boldly in the open ground, while for pots in the greenhouse there is no question as to the superiority of the newer Giant strains. One of the most important points in the successful culture of Mignonette is that the seeds should be sown on very firm soil, after first giving the ground a dressing of lime.

Mignonette suggests other sweet-scented annuals, and this place seems a fitting one to mention the following as indispensable for a scented border to be enjoyed in the still air of warm evenings. Some sorts have already been referred to, but reiteration is not objectionable to ensure as full a list as possible:—Sweet Alyssum, Sweet Peas, Sweet Sultan, Sweet-scented Candytuft, Annual Carnations, *Datura Wrightii*, Orange Gem Erysimum, *Hebenstreitia comosa*, *Limnanthes*, *Lupinus mutabilis*, Dwarf Yellow Lupine, *Martynia fragrans*, *Mathiola bicornis* (Night-scented Stock), *Nicotiana affinis*, *Nycterinia selaginoides*, *Oenothera taraxacifolia*, Petunias, *Schizopetalon Walkeri*, Stocks and Verbenas.

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### ¶ PHACELIA.

*P. campanularia* deserves mention in a separate paragraph as the outstandingly best blue annual. It is a pure deep gentian blue, grows freely in any garden soil, and flowers in six weeks from a spring sowing. In many places it can be sown in the autumn to stand the winter, and in such cases there is the additional advantage of much stronger plants and more lasting effects.

### ¶ CANDYTUFT.

One of the oldest and hardiest of hardy annuals is the Candytuft, the wild white variety of which may be found growing in cornfields and the chalky uplands and dry soils of central and eastern England. From this very modest flower and the lilac *C. umbellata* all our best garden varieties have been evolved, including the marvellously rich-coloured Improved Carmine, and the long Hyacinth-like spike of the Improved White Spiral variety with its many hundreds of flowers on one stem. Little Prince is the dwarf counterpart of this latter. A very beautiful pair are the Dwarf Pink and Lilac Queen, and the Dwarf Hybrid Mixture will be found to far excel the old-fashioned mixed Candytuft in habit, form, and wide range of rich colours.

### ¶ SUNFLOWER.

However well planned a garden may be there is generally some spot where a temporary screen is

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desirable, and in such positions the Sunflower proves a veritable friend. It is a rapid grower, and the tall single sorts will produce noble specimen plants of eight feet or more. But apart from being a useful screen plant, the family includes varieties which are an ornament to any flower garden. There is the chastely beautiful Primrose Perfection, with its black disc intensifying the purity of the soft petal colour, and the shapely intermediate sorts like Stella and Orion are also most useful for the back portion of the annual border. The Giant Double varieties are all popular with some growers, and the Dwarf Double growing only two to three feet in height makes an attractive edging to shrubberies. The red or Gaillardia-like Sunflowers are very handsome and provide an effective contrast to the golden-yellow sorts. When the red colour is combined with the smaller-flowered varieties, we get the extremely beautiful Stella Red Hybrids. These small-eyed refined flowers, with their long tapering petals marked with bronzy-red, are most decorative and of a size so very useful for vases in the house. In the border the plants attain a height of about four feet. Miniature Sunflowers, so strangely and wrongly indicated as "cucumber-leaved" by their latin name, are quite different from the normal Sunflowers and more resemble large yellow Daisies. They provide an abundance of late-autumn flowers for cutting. The plants



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make quite a bush, generally three feet high, and there is an extra dwarf strain of this Miniature Sunflower growing only some twelve inches high, and the plants are broader than they are high.

### ¶ SWEET PEA.

As yet no mention has been made of three of the most important annuals—Sweet Peas, Asters and Stocks.

To do justice to the Sweet Pea would need a book of this size to itself, and it would seem almost an insult to deal with it among other annuals, but I would commend to all lovers of this flower the *Journal of the National Sweet Pea Society*, which classifies the new introductions and many existing ones. This Society deserves the support of all amateur gardeners, and membership is well worth the small annual subscription.

Much the same might be said of Asters and Stocks, but at present we have no Aster or Stock Society, so a few pages must be devoted to each of these flowers.

### ¶ ASTER.

Asters can be the glory of our gardens from early August to late September, just at the time when we want such flowers most.

There is an immense number of classes. By classes I mean divisions, such as the Victoria, French Pæony-flowered, Comet, Ostrich Plume, Dwarf Chrysanthemum-flowered, Single, etc.

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In all these classes very similar colours have been produced, though some have a greater wealth of variety than others.

In the old days the Asters which held the field were the Betteridge class, with quilled centres and flat ray petals, and these were the only Asters which ever appeared on the show bench. Now they are rarely seen.

Then followed the Victoria, with recurved petals, and the French Pæony-flowered, with incurved petals like an old-fashioned Pæony, which took their place in popularity.

The last-named classes have now had to give way to the Comet and Ostrich Plume, two of the finest and most largely grown types in cultivation, and I think none of us regret the change.

Since the introduction of these latter, we have further new races, the Mammoth and Californian Giant, which grow in great bushes with flower stems two to three feet in length. The blooms are of the old Chrysanthemum form, and towards the end of September and early in October, when seen as cut flowers in large vases, it is difficult to say whether they belong to the Chrysanthemum or the Aster family.

Besides these main classes, there are many other less-known types, of which the following are examples :

The Liliput, or Miniature Quilled, a very old variety, recently brought to the fore by market growers. It is compact and pyramidal in habit,

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and bears an enormous number of small flattish flowers, mostly with a cream or pink centre and the outer petals of a darker colour, making a very effective table decoration.

Then there is the Ray Aster, with quilled petals ; a very large and distinct type. It comprises some lovely colours, the best being delicate mauve and pink.

The Princess, or Schiller, Aster is a very beautiful class. In habit it is pyramidal, but the flowers are fairly loose, being somewhat between the Comet and the Victoria in character, and are produced in great profusion. The White, Pink and Mauve are the best colours.

If a very early Aster is wanted Queen of the Market will meet the need. It comes into flower in July, quite three weeks before any other Aster, and has Comet-formed flowers which are produced freely.

Where a low-growing Aster is required for brilliant effect, either for the border or carpet bedding on a large scale, the Dwarf Chrysanthemum-flowered, or Bedding, Aster is the one which will give the desired result.

Single Asters, which formerly were discarded as 'rogues' whenever they appeared, are now among some of our most favourite autumn flowers. There are two classes of these, the so-called *Sinensis* (all Asters are in fact *A. sinensis*) because it is nearest to the original type, and the Southcote Beauty, or Single Comet, type.

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*A. sinensis* is a stiffer flower, both in stem and petal, than the Southcote Beauty, and is also smaller. It has long stems and travels well, and is therefore much used in London restaurants for table decoration. It is very effective in large beds, and yields an immense crop of flowers for cutting.

The Southcote Beauty, when grown well, is undoubtedly a very beautiful flower, with its small centre and long twisted petals, very like the Japanese Chrysanthemum.

Both of these Single types should be grown. Some lovers of Asters may prefer one class, and some the other. It is quite a matter of individual taste, and I should not like to say that one has greater merits than the other.

Returning to the two classes of Aster which I said were the best and most sought after at the present time, the Comet and the Ostrich Plume, there is little difference in the form of the flowers or in the colours produced. The difference lies in the habit of the plants, which in the Comet class is upright in growth and more compact in form than the Ostrich Plume. Both have long stems and are equally good for cutting, but probably the Ostrich Plume produces the greater number of large flowers. Generally speaking, we might say that the Ostrich Plume is best for borders, and the Comet for beds when grown alone. The best colours are undoubtedly the Azure Blue, Rose-pink and Rich Salmon-rose.

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The flowers of the White, too, are extremely fine. In the Giant Comet a Sulphur-yellow is produced which is well worth growing in combination with others. The yellowest of all Asters is now the Primrose Queen; the plant is of branching habit, with long stems, and is valuable for cutting, making a lovely contrast in vases with other colours, especially the deep purple.

The Aster affords the opportunity of effecting charming arrangements in harmonising colours. The Azure Blue and Dark Blue, with or without the addition of White or Yellow, is a most delightful mixture, whether in clumps in a big border, in an individual bed, or in vases for house decoration.

There is a late-flowering section of the Ostrich Plume class which is extremely helpful towards the end of September; the flowers are large and very handsome, and the colours good.

There are many distinct varieties of Asters which are remarkable for their beauty and well worth attention, such as: Amethyst, a pale lavender with incurved petals, which is charming for vases; Scarlet King, the brightest red Aster yet produced; Buff Beauty, primrose suffused with pink; and Pink Pearl, a lovely shell-pink of the Comet type.

The reason why Asters are not seen in greater profusion in many gardens is, I believe, because there are so many early annuals to claim attention in the spring that thought is not given soon

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enough to what is wanted in the latter part of the summer.

Seed may be sown under glass from the end of March till the middle of April. It should be sown thinly, in pans or boxes placed in a temperature not exceeding 65°. When the plants have attained their third leaf they may be pricked off from one to two inches apart into boxes, and transplanted direct to blooming quarters out of doors as soon as they are well established.

Some of the finest *Asters* are produced from sowings made in the open ground. This may be done about the middle of April, the plants subsequently being thinned out, or transplanted to beds or borders, as desired.

One great advantage which the *Aster* possesses is that it lifts well in its later stages; not only can it be moved from pots and plunged into the bed, or vice versa, but plants when in full flower can be taken up with a big ball of soil from the nursery plot and planted in the beds where they are wanted for display.

### ¶ STOCK.

Stocks occupy a high place among the finest of our annuals. They also combine the biennial Brompton Stock, which will always maintain its position as one of our best British flowers, but it is the Ten-week and Intermediate varieties that are now the chief representatives of the family in our gardens.

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The Annual Stocks naturally divide themselves into three classes—the summer-flowering, autumn-flowering, and winter-flowering.

The so-called Ten-week Stocks are the summer-flowering. They are truly annuals and can be flowered in ten weeks from a sowing made under glass from the middle to the end of March; in the open seed may be sown about the end of April. There are tall varieties and dwarf varieties, the former growing to eighteen inches, or even two feet, in height, and the latter from ten to twelve inches high.

Of the tall varieties, the Perfection class is undoubtedly the chief. It produces fine bushy plants, with long trusses of flowers invaluable for large vases, and is an essential feature of the annual border. There is a great variety of colours, varying from deep purple to pale pink and mauve, as well as scarlet and white. Some of the intermediate shades, Chamois, Aurora, and Delicate Pink, are particularly attractive.

In this class are Salmon Beauty, Princess Alice and Beauty of Nice, three of our very best Stocks, and certain to give much pleasure when well grown.

Of the dwarfer Stocks, the Bedding varieties have some very charming colours, such as Peach-blossom, Blush-rose, Terracotta, Carmine-pink, and Yellow. These are delightful little plants giving a mass of bloom. They are very regular in habit and make beautiful beds, as well as clumps in the foreground of an annual border.

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Mont Blanc (white) and Vesuvius (scarlet) are the annual representatives of the spring-flowering Brompton type. They produce one long central spike and are very stately in the border, providing fine specimens for cutting.

The Intermediate Stocks (East Lothian) are somewhat later in coming into flower than the Ten-week class, and require to be sown earlier. The best time for this is in February or March, in gentle heat. If put out in May they will produce very robust plants, which bloom profusely till winter frosts cut them down. Seed is also frequently sown in the autumn, the seedlings being wintered in cold frames and planted out in the spring; these will commence to bloom much earlier than spring-sown plants, and will produce an abundance of flowers throughout the summer. They send forth a large number of side branches, all of which bloom freely, often resulting in the formation of a plant covering as much as two feet of ground. On this account many gardeners prefer these to the Ten-week class, and they are well worth the extra trouble involved.

Winter-flowering Stocks are, of course, for greenhouse work, and probably no flowers better repay the care bestowed on them than a good batch of Stocks at Christmas or in the early months of the year. It is quite an easy matter to obtain these by sowing in June or July. Seed-beds may be made in pans or shallow boxes filled



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with sweet sandy soil. The seed should be sown thinly so that the young plants may have abundant room, for a little extra space will be repaid by stout and vigorous growth at the outset. As soon as the plants have made two or three pairs of leaves, they should be transferred to three-inch pots ; plenty of air must be given during favourable weather and water should be carefully applied. When sufficiently established, the plants should be repotted into the five-inch or six-inch size. The compost used for potting should consist of three parts loam, well mixed with one part of sifted old mortar rubble. While the plants are growing, an adequate supply of water is required, and manure water also is a great help. When the flower buds are developing, the plants may be transferred to the greenhouse. The best varieties for this purpose are Christmas Pink, Beauty of Nice and All the Year Round.

### NEW ANNUALS.

It is perhaps surprising that a greater number of annual flowers suited to our climate have not yet found their way into English gardens from abroad, now that all parts of the world are being opened up by travellers and explored by collectors. By this I mean new species. Of course, there are many new *varieties*, to a number of which I have already referred.

Looking back over the last forty years, I can recall only two outstanding introductions that

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have become really familiar in our gardens—the *Nemesia* and the *Dimorphotheca*. Both come from South Africa and have been real acquisitions.

Three other annuals from the Cape which have made their appearance during the last year or two are the *Ursinia*, *Venidium* and *Heliophila*. It is difficult to say whether any of these will rival the popularity of the *Nemesia*, but of the three *Ursinia anethoides* seems to have the best chance.

### ¶ URSINIA.

There are several species of *Ursinia*, but *U. anethoides* is undoubtedly the best for bedding purposes. It grows about one foot high and provides a mass of orange flowers, each with a ring of deep purple round the centre. To obtain strong plants for putting out at the end of May, the seed should be sown in a cool greenhouse during the latter part of March or early in April, and a sunny position in the garden should be allotted to them. This *Ursinia* also makes a very bright show in the greenhouse in spring, for which purpose it is usual to sow the seed in January. Another species is *U. cakilefolia* which is very similar, but is lighter in colour and with a purple ring; it lasts longer in flower than *U. anethoides* but the latter is by no means short-lived. Mr. Hay, the Superintendent of the Royal Parks, was the first to bring *Ursinia* into prominence, as he has so many other valuable flowers, with some

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very striking beds he grew in Hyde Park, which proved a great attraction for a long period during the summer.

### ¶ VENIDIUM FASTUOSUM.

The Venidium has had rather a mixed reception in this country. Some people have been disappointed with it on account of the habit of the plant. Others have had difficulty in germinating the seed, and in some districts the plant has suffered from a stem disease, similar to the Black Leg in Asters, which attacks it at the collar. Many, however, have been entirely successful and greatly pleased with it. The flower is a gorgeous orange-scarlet with a purple-black centre, and when well grown and developed the plant is a very striking one.

The variability in germination is so far inexplicable. In 1930 my Firm raised a very large number of plants from which a considerable quantity of seed was saved. All of it was harvested in one glasshouse at the same time, and every buyer was supplied from the same parcel of seed. We advised sowing not earlier than April, and we received most varying reports. Some growers said that even in April they could not get any germination; others that they had had very good germination, even as much as eighty per cent., from a February sowing. Mr. Matthews, of Kirstenbosch, South Africa, writing about the germination of Venidium, said that

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in the first season it is, as a rule, quite low, but that it is much better when the seed is kept till the second season, and that it will continue quite good in germinating power for the third or fourth season after the date of saving ; and I think it is possible that in many cases old seed will give the best percentage of germination. I ask people to persevere, and sow at different times according to their own opinions and views, but probably the best thing is to find a dry sunny spot and sow late in April. Those who succeed will, I am sure, be amply rewarded for their pains and perseverance.

*Venidium fastuosum* is well worthy of the attention of the hybridiser, and M. Cayeux, the Director of Havre Public Gardens in France, has obtained a cross between *V. fastuosum* and *V. calendulaceum*, which is a very fine hybrid. Of course, it is as yet only in its first family, but if it can be fixed it will evidently be one of the best introductions of recent years.

### ¶ HELIOPHILA.

The Heliophila has also been recently introduced from the Cape, where I have seen it making a wonderful display in the Kirstenbosch Gardens, but curious to say, on turning up an old Catalogue issued by my Firm, I find it was offered in 1861, so that it was in cultivation in this country seventy years ago. It makes a very pretty combination with *Ursinia* in the greenhouse and is also

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effective when planted close together in large masses in the open, but the pretty blue white-eyed flowers are short-lived and are only seen at their best in sunny weather.

### ¶ FELICIA BERGERIANA.

A very pretty blue annual known as the Kingfisher Daisy. It is a native of the Cape, and its unusual shade of blue is so pure and brilliant that it has been likened to the blue of *Gentiana sino-ornata*—a great compliment to pay any flower. In dull weather the petals have the habit of reflexing, leaving only the golden-yellow discs, but the flowers are perfect little gems when conditions are favourable for them. The plants grow only six inches high and the neat mossy foliage spreads close on the ground. It is quite an easy annual to grow from an April sowing in flowering position.

### ¶ ADONIS.

*A. aleppica* is being offered in this country and is no doubt a most brilliant flower, although not easy to raise. I have been told that the germination is very uncertain, and that seed germinates best when sown in the autumn and has had frost on it, but I believe that those who do succeed will be well rewarded for their trouble.

### ¶ ARCTOTIS.

The new dwarf *Arctotis* gives remarkably fine flowers rivalling the *Gazania*, and it is well worth growing in dry sunny situations.

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### ¶ SABBATIA CAMPESTRIS.

This variety of *Sabbatia* would be another useful dwarf annual if it were easier to grow. It has beautiful rose-pink flowers, and plants grown by Mr. Hay received an Award of Merit from the R.H.S. Seed is difficult to obtain as the plant is a very shy seeder.

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## CHAPTER III

*Everlasting Annuals, Annuals for Edgings, Lesser-known Annuals, Rock Garden Annuals and Mixed Annuals.*

### ¶ EVERLASTING FLOWERS.

There are many of these, and most of them are annuals. Everlasting flowers are quite an attraction in the border, and if cut at their best—before they begin to produce seed—and carefully dried, they are, all through the winter, a happy remembrance of summer.

No doubt the best-known under the term “Everlasting” are the *Helichrysums*. Stiff and formal we used to think them fifty years ago, but, as with so many other of our flowers, hybridisation and selection have wrought an entire change of opinion among those who know the newer varieties. There are now beautiful pink and cream shades, and a silvery-primrose, as well as the scarlet and crimson which take on quite a new aspect in combination with the more delicate shades.

The *Rhodanthe* in its early-flowering stage has a lovely shade of pink, but it produces, too, crimson and white, and one writer has said that it should always be sown in mixture, when a clump of these various shades makes a pretty and interesting spot in an annual border. For winter use it should be cut before the flowers are

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fully matured, and carefully dried in the dark, or the colours are liable to fade.

Acroclinium and Xeranthemum are equally useful for the border and winter work. The former flowers within six weeks of sowing and gives attractive shades of rose, as well as white. The Xeranthemum provides deep purple and a charming rosy violet.

The Statice, or Sea Lavenders, have become very well known during recent years, having figured largely in florists' shops, both in summer when freshly cut and in the winter as dried flowers. They make a most pleasing table decoration and add beauty to the annual border. *S. sinuata* provides mauve, white, rose and yellow (*Bonduelli*). One of the most charming of all is perhaps *S. Suworowi* with its long curling spikes of delicate rose-pink. The latter, as well as the *Sinuata* varieties, makes useful pot plants, and is very pleasing among other annuals in the greenhouse.

### ¶ ORNAMENTAL GRASSES.

These may well be included under the heading of "Everlastings." Even by themselves, they make a pretty vase, but they greatly add to the beauty of flowers, whether everlasting or not, when arranged with them. There are a large number of species and varieties good for this purpose, but specially should these be mentioned : *Agrostis laxiflora*, *Agrostis nebulosa*, *Avena sterilis*,



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*Briza maxima*, *Bromus aureus*, *Eragrostis abyssinica*, *Eragrostis elegans*, *Hordeum jubatum*, *Lagurus ovatus* and *Lamarckia aurea*.

### ¶ ANNUALS FOR EDGINGS.

The *Silenes* and *Nemophilas* make good edging plants. They can generally be sown in position in the autumn, and will provide a neat finish, and also a groundwork if required, to spring beds of bulbs, Wallflowers, etc. *Silene pseudo-Atocion* has brilliant starry pink flowers and is quite worth sowing alone for bright spring effects. Other good edging annuals, some of which have already been mentioned, are *Alyssum minimum*, *Leptosiphon*, Dwarf Godetias, Dwarf French Marigolds, *Tagetes signata pumila*, Ageratums, Dwarf Coreopsis, Miniature Primrose, Eschscholtzia, *Limnanthes Douglasii*, *Shortia californica* and Lobelias.

### ¶ LESSER-KNOWN ANNUALS.

It can be readily understood that among the legion of annual flowers there are many that are not only rarely seen but also some which are most interesting, beautiful or bizarre, according to the fancy of the grower, and these impressions are often reflected in the common names of such plants. Here is a group of them :

The "Paint-brush" or "Tassel" flower (*Cacalia coccinea*) is quite descriptive of its narrow vivid scarlet petals tightly bound up in

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cylindrical form by the calyx, and there is a rich orange-yellow variety of the same flower.

"Cream-cups" well describes the dainty goblet-shaped blossoms of *Platystemon californicus*. It is a miniature, closely related to the Poppies.

*Leptosiphon androsaceus* is a delicately beautiful plant of nine inches whose golden-anthered flowers vary from rose-purple to lilac.

"Tidy-tips" (*Layia elegans*) grows about one foot high; its toothed petals are of a peculiar golden-canary colour and neatly tipped with white.

*Sanvitalia procumbens* will give the impression of an incredibly small, but perfectly shaped, Sunflower; the spreading plant grows six inches high and is studded with these dark-centred clear yellow flowers. There is a double form, but the Sunflower effect is lost in it.

*Collomia coccinea* is unique in its colouring; the small starry flowers are produced in close heads, and are of that rare cherry shade known as 'Leander,' after the colour of the well-known Rowing Club.

*Echium plantagineum* attracts attention at once by its old-fashioned 'chintz' colouring. The flowers, much beloved by bees, open red and change through rose and mauve to purple and blue. *E. creticum* is of similar habit, but dwarfer, and has peculiar madder-red flowers and white-spotted encrusted foliage.

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Venus' Navelwort may be described as a glistening silvery-white Forget-me-not growing in long erect spikes. The flowers are sometimes tinted with lavender. It is one of the daintiest of annuals for small beds or for edgings, and grows freely in any ordinary garden soil.

*Campanula attica* is a true bell-flower of a royal purple or deepest violet colour, and not more than six inches high. The corollas whiten somewhat towards the base, and the plant is a most profuse bloomer. Another pretty annual *Campanula* is *C. Loreyi* with its larger chalky-blue bells, carried erect, showing white bases.

*Abronia umbellata* is the "Sand Verbena" of California. A brilliant subject, with spherical heads of rose-coloured flowers springing up from each node of the creeping fleshy-red stem. The plant is seen at its best in a sunny position in a dry season. Although really a perennial, it is easily grown as a hardy annual.

The Pheasant's Eye (*Adonis æstivalis*) produces glowing crimson black-zoned flowers which nestle closely in the finely-cut foliage. The flowers are not large, but their brilliancy makes up for any lack of size.

*Commelina cælestis* blooms the first year from seed, although actually a perennial. It is a wonderfully pure blue flower, rivalling even the blue of *Salvia patens*, and it is seen at its best in a wet season. The general habit of the plant resembles the *Tradescantia*. Another blue, but

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of a totally different shade, is that of the Annual Cynoglossum, or Hound's Tongue. It is a pure turquoise blue, a shade rarely seen, and difficult to recall in any other flower.

The annual Rudbeckia, Golden Sunset, is a meritorious plant, very little known or grown. It has rich yellow single and semi-double flowers marked with bronzy-red, the petals radiating from a bold purplish cone-like centre. It produces a wealth of long-stemmed blossom in September and October, just when flowers for the house are becoming less abundant. I know of no better late-flowered annual for cutting.

### ¶ ANNUALS FOR THE ROCK GARDEN.

For the rock and Alpine garden annuals are permissible, and often very welcome, to fill up gaps caused by the dying out of certain perennials, which is always liable to happen to a greater or lesser extent, and the following few miniature and low-growing sorts are particularly suitable for this purpose. They may all be sown in position in the spring when the unoccupied spaces reveal themselves.

*Ionopsidium acaule*, known also as the Violet Cress, has tiny pale mauve flowers, exceedingly pretty, and although the plant spreads freely wherever sown, it is never obtrusive, and can easily be kept in bounds. Height two inches.

*Leptosiphon* has already been referred to, and can be seen to great advantage in a sunny position of the rock garden.

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*Calandrinia umbellata* gives cushions of brilliant crimson flowers. Although this is a perennial, the plants bloom in four months from time of sowing seed.

*Alyssum minimum* (*Kæniga maritima*) flowers in masses close to the soil; known also as Snow Carpet.

*Androsace coronopifolia*, the only annual representative of the numerous and beautiful Alpine species. It is a charming little plant with pure white flowers gracefully poised on six-inch stems over the rosette-like foliage.

*Eschscholtzia*, Miniature Primrose, grows not more than four to six inches high, and the plants are literally covered with small pale lemon flowers—another perennial, flowering as an annual.

*Sanvitalia procumbens*, described among the Lesser-known Annuals, should also be sown on the rockery.

*Oxalis*, Cloth of Gold, a pure yellow flower and very lasting. This sort grows one foot high and should be placed accordingly.

*Gypsophila muralis*, tiny rose-coloured flowers, borne on slender hair-like stems six inches high.

There are, of course, many other sorts that may be used, but the foregoing are impeccable and the cream of the 'Alpine' annuals.

### ¶ MIXED ANNUALS.

It is wonderful what pleasure can be obtained at a very small outlay by the purchase of a pound,

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or even a few ounces, of mixed annual Flower Seeds. They may be had either in dwarf or tall varieties, and afford not only a brilliant mass of colour but a constant supply of flowers for cutting.

Many years ago I once saw, in the distance, on the downs in the Isle of Wight, a solitary bungalow surrounded by a mass of colour, and wondered what scheme of bedding could have been employed to produce such a brilliant result. On approaching the garden, I found the display was entirely composed of mixed annuals, evidently sown broadcast, and probably a pound of seed had been used. I wished the owner had been at home, so that I might have discussed the matter with her, or him. There had, however, been good preparation of the soil, and this is essential, as well as careful thinning of the seedlings, to a prolonged flowering period. If too crowded together, the plants will be weak and drawn, and will soon fade away.

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## CHAPTER IV

### *Annuals classified according to colour and height.*

#### ANNUALS IN COLOUR SCHEMES.

Perhaps the most effective way of growing annuals is to arrange them in harmonious blendings or contrasts of colour. The wide choice of varieties available admits of an almost endless number of combinations, and the following tables, classified according to colour, will suggest a number of telling arrangements, although these by no means exhaust the list. The height is indicated in feet and climbers as 'Cl.'

A \* indicates half-hardy sorts. All others are hardy, or may be treated as such.

#### WHITE AND CREAM SHADES.

TALL.			MEDIUM—continued.		
*NICOTIANA, of sorts .. ..	3-6		POPPY, White Swan .. ..	2	
*ANTIRRHINUM, Tall, Pure white ..	8		"   Shirley, Double white ..	2	
CHRYSANTHEMUM coronarium, Princess May .. ..	3		*AGERATUM, Tall white .. ..	1½	
CHRYSANTHEMUM coronarium, Double White .. ..	3		*BROWALLIA elata, White .. ..	1½	
CORNFLOWER, White .. ..	3		CALENDULA pluvialis .. ..	1½	
*COSMEA, Early-flowering, White ..	3		*CARNATION, Improved Marguerite, Pure white .. ..	1½	
HELICHRYSUM, Silver Globe .. ..	3		CHRYSANTHEMUM coronarium, 'Coronet' .. ..	1½	
LAVATERA alba splendens .. ..	3		CHRYSANTHEMUM inodorum .. ..	1½	
POPPY, Giant Double, White .. ..	3		"   plenissimum .. ..	1½	
"   Giant Single, White .. ..	3		CLARKIA, Double white .. ..	1½	
*SALPIGLOSSIS, Large-flowered, White, with golden throat ..	3		GILIA nivalis .. ..	1½	
SCABIOUS, Snowball .. ..	3		GYPSOPHILA elegans, White .. ..	1½	
*ASTER, Mammoth, White .. ..	2½-3		HAWKWEED, White .. ..	1½	
LARKSPUR, Tall sorts .. ..	2½-3		*HEBENSTREITIA comosa .. ..	1½	
CHRYSANTHEMUM carinatum album .. ..	2½		JACOBEE, Double, White .. ..	1½	
CHRYSANTHEMUM Dunnottii, Double white .. ..	2½		NIGELLA, Miss Jekyll, White .. ..	1½	
*ZINNIA, Giant Double, White .. ..	2½		*PILOX DRUMMONDII, Purity .. ..	1½	
GODETIA, Double white .. ..	2-3		*STATICE sinuata, White .. ..	1½	
NASTURTIUM, Tall, Pearl .. ..	Cl.		*STOCK, Giant Perfection varieties .. ..	1½	
MEDIUM.			SWEET SULTAN, Giant White .. ..	1½	
*ARCTOTIS grandis .. ..	2		*ASTERS, of sorts .. ..	1½-2	
ARGEMONE grandiflora .. ..	2		CHRYSANTHEMUM coronarium, Dwarf double white .. ..	1½	
CLARKIA ELEGANS, Snowball .. ..	2		*ZINNIA, Double Dwarf, White .. ..	1½	
GAURA Lindheimeri .. ..	2		*ANTIRRHINUM, Intermediate, of sorts .. ..	1-1½	
LUPINUS Hartwegii, White .. ..	2		*PETUNIA, Superb White .. ..	1-1½	
MALOPE, White .. ..	2		*SALPIGLOSSIS, Dwarf, Creamy-white .. ..	1-1½	

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## ANNUALS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COLOUR—contd.

A \* indicates half-hardy sorts. All others are hardy, or may be treated as such.

### WHITE AND CREAM SHADES—continued.

DWARF.		DWARF—continued.	
*ASTER, Dwarf Chrysanthemum-flowered, Pure white .. ..	1	CHRYSANTHEMUM inodorum plenissimum, Bridal Robe ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
*ASTER, Superb Bedding, White ..	1	COLLINSIA candidissima .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
CANDYTUFT, Improved White Spiral .. ..	1	DIMORPHOTHECA, White .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
CLARKIA, Dwarf white .. ..	1	SWAN RIVER DAISY, White ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
CONVOLVULUS minor, White ..	1	VENUS' NAVELWORT .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
ESCHSCHOLTZIA, Ivory white ..	1	*NEMESIA SUTTONI, of sorts ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1
LINARIA, Snow-white .. ..	1	*DIANTHUS HEDDEWIGII, of sorts .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1
NASTURTIUM, Dwarf, Pearl ..	1	*ANTIRRHINUM, Tom Thumb, White Queen .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
*VERBENA, Giant white .. ..	1	CANDYTUFT, Little Prince ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
VISCARIA, Pure white .. ..	1	*PETUNIA, Compact, Dwarf White Pearl .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
*ANTIRRHINUM, New Bedding, White .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1	*PORTULACA, Improved Double White .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
GODETIA, of sorts .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1	*PHLOX DRUMMONDII, of sorts ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1
*RHODANTHE, White .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1	*LOBELIA, Compact, of sorts ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1
*STOCK, Superb Bedding and East Lothian varieties .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ -1	*ALYSSUM minimum (Keenja) ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
*AGERATUM, Dwarf white .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$	SILENE, Dwarf white .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$
ALYSSUM, Sweet .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$		

### YELLOW AND ORANGE SHADES.

TALL.		MEDIUM—continued.	
*SUNFLOWER, of sorts .. ..	3-10	BARTONIA aurea .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
*ANTIRRHINUM, Tall, of sorts ..	2	*CARNATION, Improved Marguerite, Yellow .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
CHRYSANTHEMUM coronarium, Double yellow .. ..	3	CHRYSANTHEMUM, Star varieties ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
CHRYSANTHEMUM coronarium, Golden Queen .. ..	3	COREOPSIS Drummondii .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
COREOPSIS tinctoria .. ..	3	coronata .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
HELICHRYSUM, Golden Globe ..	3	*COSMEA, Miniature Yellow .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
*LEPTOSYNE maritima .. ..	3	ERYSIMUM, Orange Gem .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
*SALPIGLOSSIS, Large-flowered varieties .. ..	3	*GAILLARDIA, of sorts .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
CHRYSANTHEMUM Dunnetii, Double golden .. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	LEPTOSYNE Stillmanii .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
MARIGOLD, Double African, of sorts .. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	LUPINUS, Yellow (Menziesii) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
*ZINNIA, Giant Double varieties ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	MARIGOLD, Double African, Dwarf, of sorts .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
*VENIDIUM fastuosum .. ..	2-3	RUDBECKIA, Golden Sunset .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
NASTURTIUM, Tall, Yellow .. Cl.		*STATICE sinuata, Yellow (Bonduellii) .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
MEDIUM.		*STOCK, Giant Perfection varieties ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
HIBISCUS africanus major .. ..	2	SWEET SULTAN, Yellow .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
MARIGOLD, Double French, Orange ..	2	*ZINNIA, Double Dwarf, Yellow ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
*ASTER, Primrose Queen .. ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	*ANTIRRHINUM, Intermediate, of sorts .. ..	1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$
		*SALPIGLOSSIS, Dwarf, Yellow ..	1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$



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## ANNUALS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COLOUR—contd.

A \* indicates half-hardy sorts. All others are hardy, or may be treated as such.

### YELLOW AND ORANGE SHADES—continued.

DWARF.		DWARF—continued.	
ANTHEMIS arabica .. ..	1	*URSTINIA anethoides .. ..	1
CALENDULA, Orange King ..	1	*ANTIRRHINUM, New Bedding, of sorts .. ..	1-1
„ Lemon Queen .. ..	1	LENARIA, Golden Gem .. ..	1
CHRYSANthemum coronarium, Dwarf double yellow .. ..	1	MARIGOLD, Miniature, of sorts ..	1
CORCOPSIS, Golden Crown ..	1	*STOCK, Superb Bedding, Yellow ..	1
DIMORPHOTHECA, of sorts ..	1	*NEMESIA SUTTONI, of sorts ..	1-1
LAVIA elegans .. ..	1	ESCHSCHOLTZIA, of sorts ..	1-1
LUPINUS, Dwarf yellow .. ..	1	LIMNANTHES Douglasii .. ..	1
NASTURTIUM, Dwarf, of sorts ..	1	*PORTULACA, Improved Double, Yellow .. ..	1
OXALIS, Cloth of Gold .. ..	1	SANVITALIA procumbens .. ..	1
PLATYSTEMON californicus ..	1	LEPTOSIPHON aureus .. ..	1
TAGETES signata pumila .. ..	1		

### PINK AND ROSE SHADES.

TALL.		MEDIUM—continued.	
*ANTIRRHINUM, Tall, of sorts ..	3	CLARKIA, Double Rose .. ..	1½
CORNFLOWER, Pink .. ..	3	HAWKWEEED, Pink .. ..	1½
*COSMEA, Early-flowering, Rose ..	3	JACOBEEA, Double, Rose .. ..	1½
LAMYTERA, of sorts .. ..	3	SILENE, Aimeria, Rose .. ..	1½
LUPINUS mutabilis, Cream and pink .. ..	3	*STATION sinuata, Rose .. ..	1½
POPPY, Giant Double : Chamois-rose .. ..	3	„ Suworowi .. ..	1½
Raspberry-rose .. ..	3	*STOCK, Giant Perfection varieties ..	1½
*SALPIGLOSSIS, Large-flowered varieties .. ..	3	*ASTER, of sorts .. ..	1½-2
SCABIOUS, Large-flowered varieties ..	3	*ZINNIA, Double Dwarf, Salmon-rose ..	1½
*ASTER, Mammoth, of sorts ..	2½-3	*ANTIRRHINUM, Intermediate, of sorts .. ..	1-1½
LARKSPUR, Tall sorts .. ..	2½-3	*PETUNIA, Superb Brilliant Rose ..	1-1½
LUPINUS, Tall pink .. ..	2½	*SALPIGLOSSIS, Dwarf, Rose ..	1-1½
*ZINNIA, Giant Double : Delicate pink .. ..	2½	DWARF.	
Queen of Roses .. ..	2½	ACROCLINIUM, Rose .. ..	1
NASTURTIUM, Salmon Queen ..	Cl.	*ALONSOA Mutai .. ..	1
„ Rosy Queen .. ..	Cl.	*ASTER, Dwarf varieties .. ..	1
MEDIUM.		CONVOLVULUS minor, Pink ..	1
CLARKIA ELEGANS : Double Salmon .. ..	2	ESCHSCHOLTZIA, of sorts .. ..	1
Double Delicate Pink .. ..	2	LUPINUS, Dwarf delicate pink ..	1
GODETIA, of sorts .. ..	2	NASTURTIUM, Dwarf, of sorts ..	1
JACOBEEA, Single, Bright Rose ..	2	STATION spicata .. ..	1
POPPY, of sorts .. ..	2	*VERBENA, Giant Pink .. ..	1
SAPONARIA Vaccaria, Pink ..	2	*ANTIRRHINUM, New Bedding, of sorts .. ..	1-1
*CARNATION, Improved Marguerite, of sorts .. ..	1½	GODETIA, of sorts .. ..	1-1
		*RHODANTHE, Rose .. ..	1-1
		*STOCK, Superb Bedding and East Lothian varieties .. ..	1-1

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## ANNUALS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COLOUR—contd.

A \* indicates half-hardy sorts. All others are hardy, or may be treated as such.

### PINK AND ROSE SHADES—continued.

DWARF—continued.		DWARF—continued.	
*NEMESIA SUTTONI, of sorts ..	2-1	CANDYTUFT, Dwarf Pink ..	1
CORNFLOWER, Victoria, Dwarf		*PETUNIA, Compact, of sorts ..	1
Rose .. .. .	1	SAPONARIA calabrica ..	1
*DIASCLA Barbaea .. .. .	1	*PHLOX DRUMMONDII, of sorts	1-1
VISCARIA, of sorts .. .. .	1-1	SILENE, of sorts .. .. .	1-1
*DIANTHUS HEDDEWIGII, of		LEPTOSIPHON roseus .. .. .	1
sorts .. .. .	1-1		

### CRIMSON AND SCARLET SHADES, including Carmine and Ruby.

TALL.		MEDIUM—continued.	
*ANTIRRHINUM, Tall, of sorts ..	3	*ANTIRRHINUM, Intermediate, of	
COREOPSIS atrosanguinea ..	3	sorts .. .. .	1-1
*COSMEA, Early-flowering, Crimson	3	*PETUNIA, of sorts .. .. .	1-1
HELICHRYSUM, Fireball ..	3	*SALPIGLOSSIS, Dwarf, Scarlet	1-1
*NICOTIANA, of sorts .. .. .	3		
POPPY, Giant Double, Scarlet ..	3	DWARF.	
*SALPIGLOSSIS, Large-flowered		*ALONSOA Warscewiczii .. ..	1
varieties .. .. .	3	" gracilis .. .. .	1
SCABIOUS, Cherry Red .. .. .	3	*ASTER, Dwarf varieties .. ..	1
*ASTER, Mammoth, Scarlet ..	2-3	CANDYTUFT, Improved Carmine	1
POLYGONUM, Ruby Gem .. ..	2-1	CENTRANTHUS macrostemon ..	1
*ZINNIA, Giant Double, Scarlet ..	2-1	LINUM grandiflorum rubrum ..	1
*NASTURTIUM, Improved Lucifer	Cl.	NASTURTIUM, Dwarf, of sorts ..	1
" Black Prince .. .. .	Cl.	*VERBENA, Giant Firefly .. ..	1
		VISCARIA cardinalis .. .. .	1
		*ANTIRRHINUM, New Bedding, of	
		sorts .. .. .	1-1
		ESCHSCHOLTZIA, of sorts .. ..	1-1
		GOSETIA, of sorts .. .. .	1-1
		*RHODANTHE, crimson .. .. .	1-1
		*STOCK, Superb Bedding and East	
		Lothian varieties .. .. .	1-1
		*NEMESIA SUTTONI, of sorts ..	1-1
		COLLOMIA coccinea .. .. .	1
		COREOPSIS, Dwarf Crimson ..	1
		*DIANTHUS HEDDEWIGII, of	
		sorts .. .. .	1-1
		ANAGALLIS, Scarlet .. .. .	1
		*ANTIRRHINUM, Tom Thumb, of	
		sorts .. .. .	1
		*PORTULACA, Improved Double,	
		Scarlet .. .. .	1
		SAPONARIA, Scarlet Queen ..	1
		VISCARIA, Dwarf Carmine ..	1
		*PHLOX DRUMMONDII, of sorts	1-1

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## ANNUALS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO COLOUR—contd.

A \* indicates half-hardy sorts. All others are hardy, or may be treated as such

### BLUE, MAUVE, AND PURPLE SHADES.

TALL.		MEDIUM—continued.	
CORNFLOWER, Blue .. ..	3	*PETUNIA, of sorts .. ..	1-1½
LARKSPUR, Tall sorts .. ..	3	LINUM, Annual Blue Flax ..	1½
LUPINUS, Tall dark blue .. ..	3	SALPIGLOSSIS, Dwarf varieties ..	1-1½
POPPY, Giant Double, Mauve ..	3		
*SALPIGLOSSIS, Large-flowered varieties .. ..	3		
SCABIOUS, Mauve (Azure Fairy)..	3		
*ASTER, Mammoth, of sorts ..	2½-3		
MEDIUM.		DWARF.	
CHRYSANTHEMUM carinatum purpureum.. ..	2	*ASTER, Dwarf varieties .. ..	1
GLARKIA ELEGANS, Purple Prince .. ..	2	CAMPANULA Loreyl, Blue ..	1
GODETIA, Double Mauve .. ..	2	CANDYTUTT, Lilac .. ..	1
LUPINUS Hartwegii, Azure blue..	2	.. Rich Purple .. ..	1
POPPY, Mauve Queen .. ..	2	CONVOLVULUS MINOR:	
.. Shirley, Blue Shades .. ..	2	Dark Blue .. ..	1
XERANTHEMUM, of sorts .. ..	2	Sky-blue .. ..	1
ECHLUM plantaginaceum .. ..	1½-2	CORNFLOWER, King of Blue Bottles .. ..	1
SWEET SULTAN, of sorts .. ..	1½-2	LINARIA, Mauve .. ..	1
*AGERATUM, Tall Blue .. ..	1½	LUPINUS, Dwarf rich blue ..	1
ANCHUSA, Annual Blue .. ..	1½	PHACELIA congesta .. ..	1
*ANTIRRHINUM, Intermediate, Mauve Beauty and Mauve Queen	1½	*VERBENA, Superb Bedding varieties .. ..	1
*BROWALLIA elata, Blue .. ..	1½	VISCARIA, Bright Blue .. ..	1
COMMELENA coelestis .. ..	1½	*STOCK, Superb Bedding and East Lothian varieties .. ..	½-1
CYNOGLOSSUM, Annual Blue ..	1½	*AGERATUM, Imperial Dwarf Blue ..	½
*DIPISCUS coruleus .. ..	1½	CORNFLOWER, Victoria, Dwarf Blue .. ..	½
GODETIA, Lavender Gem.. ..	1½	NIGELLA, Double dwarf .. ..	½
JACOBEEA, Double, Purple .. ..	1½	PHACELIA campanularia .. ..	½
NIGELLA, Miss Jekyll .. ..	1½	SWAN RIVER DAISY, Blue .. ..	½
SALVIA, Blue Beard .. ..	1½	*NEMESIA SUTTONI, of sorts ..	½-1
*STATICE sinuata, of sorts .. ..	1½	ANAGALLIS, Blue .. ..	½
*STOCK, Giant Perfection varieties	1½	CAMPANULA atlica .. ..	½
*ASTER, of sorts .. ..	1½-2	NEMOPHILA, of sorts .. ..	½
		*PETUNIA, Compact, of sorts ..	½
		*PHLOX DRUMMONDII, of sorts ..	½-1
		*LOBELIA, Compact, of sorts ..	½-1
		*AGERATUM, Little Blue Star ..	½

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## CHAPTER V

### *Some Biennials and Perennials usually grown as Annuals.*

A number of the most useful of our garden flowers, which at one time were thought of only as biennials or perennials, are now grown almost exclusively as annuals. Not only has this change in the method of culture led to a far more effective use of these subjects, but the labour of growing them has also been greatly reduced. Some of the more important species, such as *Antirrhinum* and *Verbena*, are now dealt with, while others—*Lobelia*, *Eschscholtzia* and *Scabious*—are referred to in Chapter II.

#### ¶ ANTIRRHINUM.

It is well within memory that the *Antirrhinum* has become the most largely-grown annual bedding plant in this country. This position has been held for some twenty years, and one looks around without at present being able to find either a substitute or a successor. *Antirrhinums* are truly perennials in warmer climates, and in southern Europe will persist indefinitely if allowed to do so and form woody stems several inches in diameter, but second-year plants are never a success in this country. They often look promising up till May, or even later, but when flowering time comes they invariably disappoint us.

The *Antirrhinum* has much to recommend it—

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brightness and purity of colouring, regularity of habit, and the ease with which it can be raised to flower in four months from sowing, and of these desirable qualities it is certainly the wonderful range of new shades that has led to its extended use. Prior to their great improvement, *Antirrhinums* were mostly seen in cottage gardens and the colours were restricted to a purplish-rose, a crude red, and a good yellow ; now, owing to their rich colouring and extreme adaptability, they are seen in gardens of all styles, and in enormous quantities, particularly in our public parks and pleasure grounds.

In pink shades there is a specially wide choice, and it is possible to arrange a whole series of beds in pinks alone, varying from flesh to cherry. The flame-coloured sorts—Orange King, Fire King, and Guardsman—are also wonderful, and as largely grown as the pinks. The latter go particularly well with the apricots and yellows, but it may be said that, with the exception of the mauve and purple shades which should be associated with the white and yellow sorts only, all the new *Antirrhinums* tone well with each other, and it is really difficult to make a mistake in bedding them together, though of course there is full scope for individual taste.

There are three principal classes—the Tall (three feet), suitable for the centres of large beds and the back portions of borders ; the Intermediate (eighteen inches) and New Bedding

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(twelve inches), which are the main sorts used for massing ; and the Tom Thumb (six inches). The last named are becoming less grown since the introduction of the New Bedding varieties, which are freer flowering and more regular in habit.

Besides these three principal races, a new hybrid has been produced from a cross made between the New Bedding *Antirrhinum* and *A. glutinosum*. It is quite distinct from either of its parents. The plants grow only four to six inches high, and are covered with miniature flowers of pretty delicate shades, varying from pink to pale citron and white. If used in a border these hybrids should be planted in large clumps in a mixture of colours. They also make charming dwarf plants for the rockery, as well as pot plants in the house.

*Antirrhinum* seed is usually sown from January to March in the cool greenhouse, pricking off the seedlings into boxes when large enough, growing on steadily, and hardening off in cold frames to plant out when the spring occupants of the beds have been removed. To ensure earlier flowering by about one month, seed may be sown towards the end of August in the southern counties, and rather earlier in the North, and the seedlings wintered in cold frames, after being pricked out into boxes in the usual way. From carefully saved seed, good strains of *Antirrhinum* come wonderfully true to type, and if an occasional 'sport' should occur it can mostly be identified in the early seedling stage by its different foliage and rejected at planting-out time.

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### ¶ VERBENA.

The Verbena is another annual garden plant, formerly grown almost entirely from cuttings, which can now be grown much more easily, and with far better results, from seed. The seedling plants are stronger and more healthy, and most of the colours come perfectly true from seed.

Giant Pink is a very fine flower, and is so true from seed that a bed gives the impression that it must have been produced from the division of one plant. Another selection of this colour, Giant Pink Shades, makes a very lovely bed, preferred by many to the self-coloured Giant Pink. In both cases the flowers are very large. Firefly, a brilliant scarlet, is not so large in the individual flowers as the Pinks, but it makes a very striking bed.

Where blue is needed for any portion of the garden, Verbenas are most useful. The Blue Bedding is a self colour, and the Giant Royal Blue has very large flowers of rich blue with a white eye—an extremely pretty flower.

The Giant White is very useful for mixing with the Red, Pink or Blue, or for growing alone where white flowers are wanted.

For very small beds and edgings the compact class of Verbenas is useful, and these plants, on account of their erect growth, are also excellent for pots in the greenhouse, the Chamois being a particularly pleasing shade.

For the best results, Verbenas should be sown

## ANNUALS

in heat early in the year and kept in a growing state until planted out in the beds in June, when they will continue to flower till late autumn. As sunny a position as possible should be chosen for them.

*Verbena venosa* is a distinct species of a particularly pleasing violet-magenta colour. It is very free flowering, but should be grown alone and not mixed with other Verbenas.

### ¶ PENTSTEMON.

Pentstemons, like Antirrhinums, make splendid bedding plants when grown as half-hardy annuals from seed sown in January or February. They come into flower at the end of June ; or if sown in August or September, and wintered in cold frames, an even earlier show can be made with them. Formerly, Pentstemons produced only dull crimson or magenta shades, but now the Pink, Scarlet and White come perfectly true from seed and make as bright bedding effects as do the same colours in Sweet Williams earlier in the year. The fine bell-shaped flowers, which remind one of a dwarf Foxglove, are very lasting and stand unfavourable weather even better than the Antirrhinum.



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